

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /093 W
----- 024103

R 240732Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4877

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM CONSUL, PESHAWAR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: OUSTER ASLAM KHATTAK AS NWFP GOVERNOR

1. ASLAM KHATTAK RESIGNED AS NWFP GOVERNOR MAY 23 ON ORDERS FROM PRIMIN BHUTTO. NEWLY-APPOINTED GOVERNOR IS RELATIVELY UNKNOWN AND COLORLESS MAJOR GENERAL (RET) AID GHAWAS WHO HAS BEEN LIVING PAST FEW YEARS IN MARDAN DISTRICT.

2. DISMISSAL ASLAM CHATTAK APPEARS INDICATE PRIMIN NOW PLANNING OUST NWFP CHIEF MINISTER INAYATULLAH GANDAPUR AND REPLACE HIM WITH NWFP PEOPLES PARTY LEADER HAYAT SHERPAO. MOST PESHAWARIS SURPRISED BY ACTION AGAINST KHATTAK BECAUSE PRIMIN DURING VISIT TO FRONTIER EARLIER THIS MONTH HAD GIVEN PUBLIC SUPPORT TO TEAM OF KHATTAK AND GANDAPUR WHILE HE HAD TREATED SHERPAO AS NAUGHTY BOY WHO SHOULD DEVOTE MORE ATTENTION TO PARTY AFFAIRS. KHATTAK APPARENTLY BELIEVED HE HAD RECEIVED BHUTTO'S BLESSING FOR CONTINUED TENURE OF OFFICE BECAUSE HE

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ANNOUNCED TO PRESS AFTER PRIMIN'S DEPARTURE THAT THERE

WOULD BE NO CHANGES IN NWFP GOVERNMENT.

3. IF ONE SPECIFIC EVENT MAY BE SAID TO HAVE TRIGGERED PRIMIN'S MOVE, IT MAY HAVE BEEN GOVERNOR'S AUDACIOUS ARREST TEN DAYS AGO OF IMPORTANT KOHAT PPP DISTRICT LEADER FOLLOWING LATTER'S SHARP ATTACK ON KHATTAK IN PUBLIC MEETING. ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THAT BHUTTO HAD BEEN PLANNING OUST KHATTAK FOR SOME TIME AND WOULD HAVE INDEED DONE IT EARLIER IF HE HAD NOT BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH SERIOUS PPP PROBLEMS IN PUNJAB.

4. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW PRIMIN EXPECTS ARRANGE FOR INSTALLATION OF SHERPAO AS CHIEF MINISTER. WHILE BHUTTO MAY BE ABLE TO FORCE RELUCTANT GANDAPUR TO SUBMIT RESIGNATION, HE MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT VOTES FOR SHERPAO IF ALLIES OF KHATTAK AND GANDAPUR JOIN WITH NAP/JUI IN OPPOSING SHERPAO'S CANDIDACY. IF GANDAPUR REFUSES TO RESIGN, BHUTTO WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY DISLODGING HIM AGAINST WISHES LARGE PERCENTAGE PRO-GOVERNMENT MPAS AND ALL OPPOSITION MPAS. ANY PLANS PRIMIN HAS OF OUSTING GANDAPUR BY DISSOLVING PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY MUST BE RECONCILED WITH ARTICLE 112 OF CONSTITUTION WHICH STATES THAT PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS SHALL BE DISSOLVED BY GOVERNOR ON ADVICE OF CHIEF MINISTER.
LUPPI

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